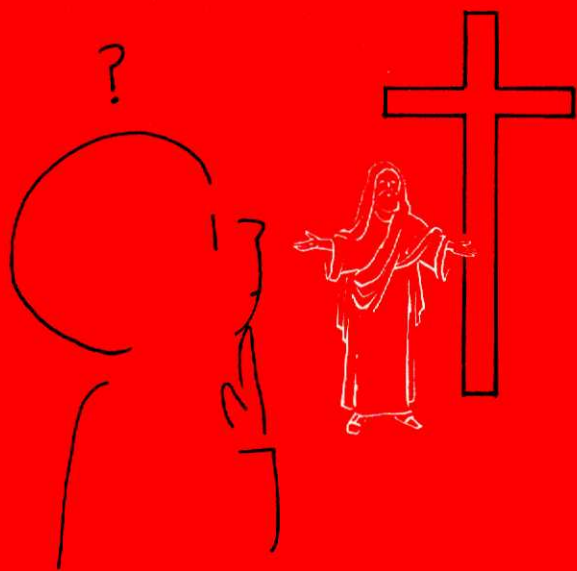


ABOUT CHRISTIANITY



What is **CHRISTIANITY** ?

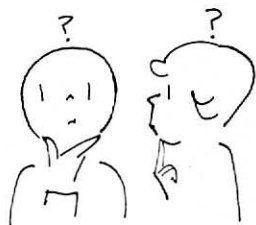
...it's a religion --
attitudes, beliefs and practices
based on the life and teachings of
JESUS CHRIST

CHRISTIANITY deals with:

How should we live ?

Why are we here ?

What happens after death ?



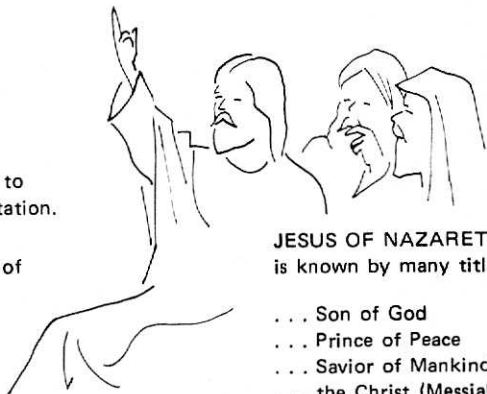
Jesus was born in a stable, was poor, never traveled more than 90 miles from his birth-place, had little formal education, led no nation or army, died at the age of 33, falsely regarded as a criminal rather than a hero...

YET his life and death laid the **FOUNDATION**
upon which Christianity is built.

LOVE all people; meet hatred
with love and understanding.

FAITH in God's love may belong to
anyone, regardless of worldly station.

SALVATION and the kingdom of
heaven may be gained by man
because of Christ's sacrifice.



JESUS OF NAZARETH
is known by many titles

... Son of God
... Prince of Peace
... Savior of Mankind
... the Christ (Messiah)

Scripture quotations are
from the RSV Common
Bible, copyrighted © 1973;
used by permission.

CHRISTIANITY is one of the **GREATEST FORCES** in the history of mankind

1/3
of the
WORLD'S
POPULATION
is
Christian



...565 MILLION
Roman Catholics

...295 MILLION
Protestants

...125 MILLION
Eastern Orthodox

CHRISTIANITY has **CHANGED** the world...

HISTORICALLY



National boundaries have been formed by the forces of Christianity. Great music, art and literature have been inspired by Christian thought.

THEOLOGICALLY



Christianity has influenced other great world religions via its mission to unite all people in brotherhood, and its programs of action to meet human needs.

MORALLY



Jesus' life is the example to man of true Christian love; it has provided guidelines for many non-Christians as well as Christians.

St. Paul
taught these
basic

PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY

Faith, Hope and
Charity



Paul traveled in the Mediterranean countries after Christ's death-- spreading the message of Christ.

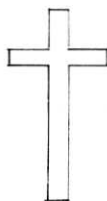


Christianity
is a way to BELIEVE
FAITH

Christians have faith in Jesus Christ and his teachings as revealed in the Holy Bible.

Not all Christians share all their particular beliefs . . . but they have a common faith in God's love for man. They believe that Jesus' life, death and resurrection represent God's promise of Salvation for all believers. Most believe that Jesus is the son of God come to earth as man.

Most have faith in the Trinity . . . that man knows God three ways . . . as God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. Yet He is ultimately one God and one force in the world.



Protestant Cross



Catholic and
Eastern Orthodox
Cross



Christianity is a way
of **WORSHIP**

HOPE

Christian worship is an
expression of hope for
further love from God and
for eternal Salvation.

There are as many forms of Christian
ritual as there are denominations --
(about 250). They range from the
formal high mass at St. Peter's, to the
silence of a Quaker meeting, to the
intense joy and sorrow of a
Pentecostal service.

Almost every Christian

- ... attends some church.
- ... participates in one or more of the
sacraments (baptism, marriage,
Lord's supper, last rites, etc.).
- ... prays to God.
- ... is inspired by the Bible.



Christianity is a way
of **LIFE**

CHARITY

"GOLDEN RULE" --
Do unto others as you
would have them do
unto you.

The Christian way of life is based on
Charity (love) in action. Jesus taught
that, next to loving God, "You
shall love your neighbor as yourself"
(Matt. 22:39).

Christian life is a life of service to God --
and charity and love toward fellow man.
Christ's life was a model of that love
which serves others without asking
anything in return -- "Love bears all
things, believes all things, hopes all
things, endures all things" (1 Cor., 13:7).



The
SACRED
writings of
Christianity ...

The BIBLE

Comes from the Greek
"biblia" meaning "books" →



... these are stories about
an old agreement between
God (Yahweh) and man
(the Hebrews) when the
Hebrews came out of Egypt
...and how it worked out.

A collection of
books written before
Christ during a period
of over 900 years...

- ① HISTORIES
of heroes and events
- ② CODES OF LAW
- ③ ORATIONS
- ④ REFLECTIVE
LITERATURE
- ⑤ POETRY



looking forward to a MISSION for ISRAEL

39 BOOKS

in Protestant Bibles

"THE LAW"

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

"THE PROPHETS"

Joshua
Judges
I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

"THE WRITINGS"

Psalms
Proverbs
Job
Daniel
Ezra
Nehemiah
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Song of Songs
Ruth
Lamentations
Ecclesiastes
Esther

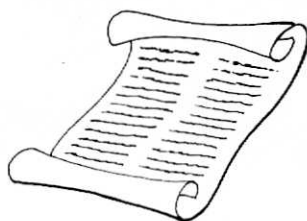
46 BOOKS

in Roman Catholic and
Eastern Orthodox Bibles.
Includes books of
Protestant Bible
plus

"THE SECOND CANON"

Tobit
Judith
Wisdom of
Solomon
Esther
Sirach
Baruch
I Maccabees
II Maccabees
plus additions to
Daniel

It's a collection of ancient writings about **GOD**, and his dealings with man, in two parts -- **OLD TESTAMENT** and **NEW TESTAMENT** ("Testament" means "agreement")



... these are stories and teachings about a new agreement between God and man based on the teachings and life of Jesus.



A collection of **27 BOOKS** written in less than 100 years (51 A.D. to 105 A.D.) after Christ as a

MISSIONARY HANDBOOK

proclaiming the birth, growth and teachings of the Christian Church.

27 BOOKS

Protestant, Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Bibles include the same books

"THE GOSPELS"	THE ACTS of the APOSTLES PETER and PAUL	EPISTLES (letters) from Paul	OTHER LETTERS	A "VISION"
Matthew Mark Luke John	Acts	Romans I Corinthians II Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians I Thessalonians II Thessalonians	I Timothy II Timothy Titus Philemon Hebrews James I Peter II Peter I John II John III John Jude	Revelation

The EARLY CHURCH

① A MOVEMENT WITHIN JUDAISM



Jesus was born under the rule of the Roman Empire at a time when Jews were under an army of occupation. His first followers were Jews who believed that he was the long-awaited Jewish Messiah. So the early Christian church was a sect within Judaism. But where traditional Jewish leaders emphasized law, Jesus emphasized love.

② OPPOSITION

BY THE TEMPLE



Jesus opposed using the Temple as a "market-place." He urged people to follow the spirit of the law (love) rather than the mere letter of the law. Temple elders tried to discredit his ideas.

BY THE STATE

Early Christians opposed the cruel theater and gladiator shows of the Roman Empire. They refused to worship the Emperor as divine. So Christians were murdered and sacred books destroyed.



The FIRST SEPARATION

When the Church became allied with the State, the Pope in Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople began struggling for control.



For early Christians, a church was **ANYWHERE** Christians gathered to worship-- for Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

(Matt. 18:20)



③ Despite opposition, Christianity **SPREAD**



The Apostle Paul began to spread the Gospel ("good news") about Jesus to non-Jews, many of whom were growing away from their pagan religions. **ANYONE** was welcome into the Christian church, if he accepted Jesus as Lord. Thousands of Greek and Roman citizens became members of the Christian church.

④ Christianity became **ESTABLISHED**

i.e., accepted by the people
-- recognized by the state.



About 150 A.D. the Christians combined the Old and New Testaments into what we now call the "**BIBLE**"
... the basic guidebook of Christianity.

In 312 A.D. the Roman Emperor, Constantine, became a Christian, and Christianity became a "legal" religion. In 380 A.D. Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman Empire.



In 1054 A.D. the Church **SPLIT** into the **EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH** and the **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**.

The REFORMATION

The beginnings of PROTESTANTISM



By the 14th century, many "Catholics" wanted to change their church. These "reformers" rejected various doctrines of the Catholic Church and also taught some new ones.

NEW CHURCHES

In the 16th century



Some reformers gave up the idea of trying to change the Catholic Church and started new churches based on their "reform" ideas.

They had different founders, names and forms of worship . . . but all came to be known as PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

COUNTER-REFORMATION

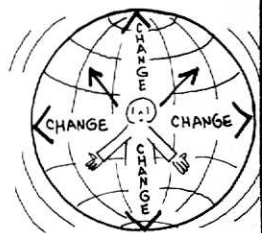


The Catholic Church resisted change of doctrine.

It strove through the Council of Trent to achieve reform of discipline and unity of faith within the Catholic Church.

The **REFORMATION** changed Christianity at a time when other major forces were changing western culture.

- ... Renaissance
- ... Voyages of discovery
- ... Rise of nationalism
- ... Beginnings of capitalism
- ... Dawn of scientific age.



Reformers put emphasis on the Bible as the only rule of faith as distinguished from the Catholics who recognized scripture and tradition as the rule of faith. Protestants wanted the laity to have a voice in decisions.



4 MAJOR FAMILIES of FAITH within PROTESTANTISM

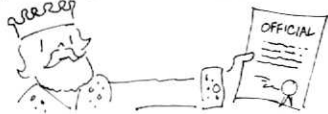
Some later groups (Unitarian, Pentecostal, etc.) do not fit these families.

1 LUTHERANISM



Martin Luther was a German Catholic who broke from the Catholic Church in 1517 over issues of religious doctrine.

2 ANGLICANISM



In 1534, the English branch of the Catholic Church broke with Rome over the issue of papal jurisdiction. The ANGLICAN church became the official English religion. The King became head of the church of England.

3 REFORMED and PRESBYTERIAN bodies



These churches sprang basically from the teachings of John Calvin, who fled France to avoid religious persecution in the 1530's, and John Knox in Scotland.

4 FREE CHURCHES



Anabaptists, who were originally rejected by both Catholics and Protestants, were the forerunners of "Free Churches."

CATHOLIC CHURCH

U.S. Membership

ROMAN CATHOLIC.....48,200,000

EASTERN ORTHODOX...3,900,000

LARGEST PROTESTANT CHURCHES

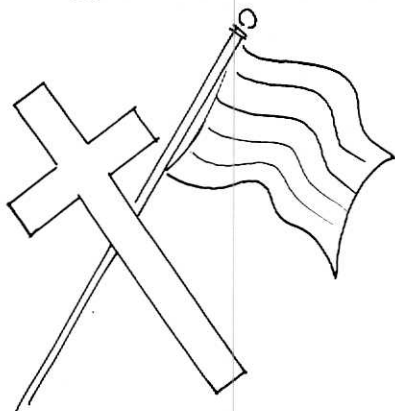
U.S. Membership

Baptist bodies	27,300,000
Methodist	13,000,000
Lutheran	8,800,000
Presbyterian & Reformed	4,900,000
Episcopal	3,300,000
Church of Christ	2,600,000
Latter Day Saints	2,300,000
United Church of Christ	1,900,000
Disciples of Christ	1,800,000

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

a time of CHANGE

① POLITICAL CHANGE



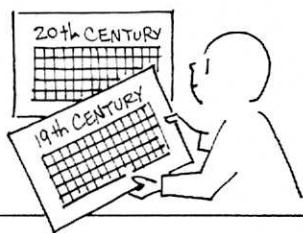
In the past, Church and State have been closely allied. But modern political movements often see Christianity as the "old regime" and reject it as a political force. As a positive response, Christianity emphasizes its ethical role. Today Christian missionaries cover every area of the world to bring Jesus' word to all people.

② ECONOMIC CHANGE



With the growth of trade and modern economic systems, the world is much wealthier today than ever before. People have more material goods to make their lives more comfortable. But there is the danger that this wealth will be used selfishly. The Christian message of LOVE and BROTHERHOOD is important in teaching individuals, as well as nations, to use their wealth for the benefit of all mankind.

Through the years, Christianity has adapted to different societies, cultures and philosophies without changing its basic message.



③ TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE



Innovations, from the telephone to streamlined production machinery, have given people more leisure time, and have made travel and communication easier. Christianity uses new technology to bring the message of faith to more people. Teachers and missionaries use radio and television to bring their message into peoples' homes. Church services are shared over public broadcasting systems.

④ INTELLECTUAL CHANGE












Scientific advances have broadened old notions about man, God and the universe. The nature of the soul, creation, the role of faith have all been re-examined, often questioned.

In response, Christian philosophy has been re-stated in light of new ideas, and with new dimensions. Modern scholars have brought out new editions of the Bible to reflect modern language and to make the scriptures more meaningful today.



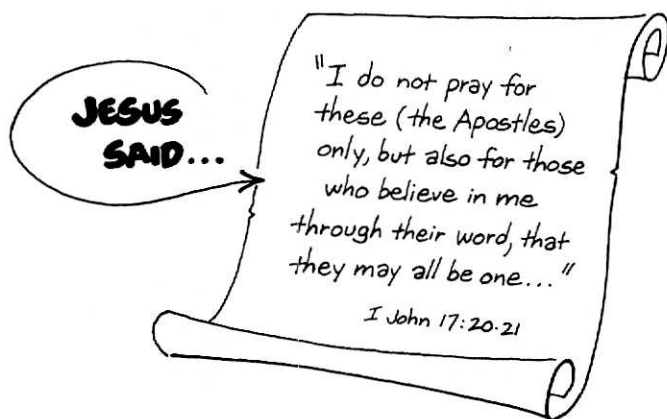
WHERE IS CHRISTIANITY HEADED?

TODAY-- Christians are feeling a need to
COME TOGETHER AGAIN!

MOVES TOWARD CHRISTIAN UNITY IN THIS CENTURY		
<p>1910</p>  <p>EDINBURGH WORLD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE Protestants meet to plan a common strategy.</p>	<p>1915</p>  <p>Roman Catholic Church institutes a week of prayer called "CHRISTIAN UNITY OCTAVE."</p>	<p>1921</p>  <p>Creation of the INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL Protestants meet together to spread Christ's word.</p>
<p>1937</p>  <p>OXFORD CONFERENCE on "Church, Community and State." (Protestant)</p>	<p>1948</p>  <p>WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES established (Protestant).</p>	<p>1961</p>  <p>INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL merges with WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.</p>
<p>1962</p>  <p>Pope John XXIII creates SECRETARIAT for the PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY.</p>	<p>1965</p>  <p>JOINT CONSULTATION COMMITTEE established by the World Council of Churches and Vatican Secretariat.</p>	<p>1966</p>  <p>Protestants and Catholics meet on "CHRISTIANS in the TECHNICAL and SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS of our time."</p>



More and more --
Christians are working together
to unite mankind in real brotherhood
to work for
WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING



... and after all
**The MISSION of every
Christian is
PEACE, LOVE,
JUSTICE
and
FREEDOM**

